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## **CHAFEE TOURS NEW HOME OF TRAVELERS AID**

**PROVIDENCE, RI** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today received a firsthand look at construction that is continuing at the former YMCA building on Broad Street in Providence. When the renovations are completed, the site will become the new home of Travelers Aid and will provide space for free medical and dental services, expanded education and job training programs, and a full service cafeteria.

Chafee was lead on the tour by Anne Nolan, president of Travelers Aid, and Providence Journal Publisher Howard Sutton, who chairs the relocation fundraising campaign.

“I am pleased to be a part of this important initiative, a good example of how business and government can come together to support the effort to better serve the homeless and the revitalization of downtown,” said Chafee. “This project has the enthusiastic backing of city and state government, the nonprofit community, and local business leaders.”

On April 15, 2003, Senator Chafee wrote a letter to Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies (VA-HUD), to request that funding for this project be included in the FY2003 VA-HUD Appropriations bill. He stated, “The city of Providence’s old central business district, known as “Downcity,” is poised to be the next focal point in its exciting renaissance. The linchpin of the \$9 million Downcity revitalization project is the relocation of Rhode Island’s largest homeless service provider – Travelers Aid – from Downcity to the Greater Providence YMCA building.

Travelers Aid’s extraordinary mission has overwhelmed its cramped, decrepit headquarters. In conjunction with the new rental housing construction that is already underway, the relocation project is also expected to provide an economic spark in an area that is dominated by vacant storefronts.”

Senator Chafee, along with his colleague, Senator Reed requested similar funding for this project in the FY 2002 VA-HUD bill and delivered a \$1 million federal appropriation.